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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the air strikes launched by the United States of America against Afghanistan and the Sudan.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under item 157 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanović**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/150.

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Annex

Statement of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the air strikes launched by the United States of America against Afghanistan and the Sudan

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia strongly condemns all forms of terrorism, regardless of who commits them, where they come from and whose interests they threaten. It is considered that international terrorism, as a major threat to the modern world, can be successfully eliminated only by an impartial attitude, respect for fundamental principles of international law and international cooperation based on equal footing.

Unilateral approaches and action – in some cases, to protect the terrorists and include them in negotiations, and in other cases, to use against terrorists and their bases on territories of other sovereign States, weapons of mass destruction, bypassing and ignoring the United Nations – are contrary to the fundamental principles of international relations, counter-productive and as such unacceptable.

Yugoslavia believes that the policy of double standards in regard to terrorism is dangerous and undermines the struggle of the international community against this common threat. Attempts to distinguish between terrorists as the "good ones" and the "bad ones", to declare only those directly threatening the interests of certain countries as "bad ones", while the others are considered "human rights' fighters", and denying other countries the right to struggle against terrorism in their own territories are not based on any of the principles and facts, but on unilateral evaluations of their own interests and on a policy of power.

Yugoslavia believes that an efficient struggle against terrorism demands an impartial approach from all countries and international actors, as well as equal cooperation respecting the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, to which it will continue to contribute fully.